Nesting Bird Management

Fort Wainwright, Alaska
Environmental Officer Course
2011

Outline

I. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act
II. Potential Problematic Birds
III. Overview of Process
IV. HMMP Committee
V. Authorized Use/User List
VI. Hazardous Material Inventory
VII. Environmental Officer Responsibilities

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act

(MBTA; 16 USC 703-712)

prohibits the “take” of any migratory bird during the breeding season without a permit. Take is defined broadly and includes the removal of occupied nests. Occupied nests are defined as those that hold eggs and or chicks. Once a nest is active, there is nothing to be done without a permit.

Potential Problematic Birds

- Mew Gulls
- Cliff Swallows
- Bank Swallows

Mew Gulls

- **Prefer to nest on platforms and stationary vehicles.**
- **Nests can be built and an egg laid within a weekend.**
- **Once an egg is laid, the nest and occupants are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and may not be removed without a permit.**
- **Fort Wainwright applies for a gull nest depredation permit annually. Normally, Fort Wainwright obtains a permit for the removal of only 10 nests. Use of the permit is at the discretion of the Post biologist, on a case by case basis, who is knowledgeable and trained in identifying and assessing the state of nest activity and therefore the nests' protection under the MBTA.**
- **Empty nests can be removed without a permit.**
- **Nests may be active while still being constructed. Check first and verify that the nest is EMPTY. If verification cannot be obtained, Do not remove the nest.**
- **Preventative measures and a proactive approach are the most efficient and simple ways to deal with the nesting birds.**
- **Prevent nesting between first arrival to July 15th.**
- **Nests may not be removed until all signs of occupancy are gone.**

Cliff Swallows

- Swallows build mud nests under the eves of most buildings on Post.
- Nests can be built and an egg laid within a weekend.
- Cliff Swallows will utilize nests from the previous breeding season.
- Fort Wainwright does NOT apply for NOR does it receive a permit for Cliff Swallow nest depredation.
- Once an egg is laid, the nest and occupants are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and may not be removed without a permit.
- Empty nests can be removed without a permit.
- Nests may be active while still being constructed. Check first and verify that the nest is EMPTY. If verification cannot be obtained, Do not remove the nest.
- Preventative measures and a proactive approach are the most efficient and simple ways to deal with the nesting birds.
- Prevent nesting between first arrival to July 15th.
- Nests may not be removed until all signs of occupancy are gone.

Bank Swallows

- **Bank Swallows dig out and build nests into banks along the Chena River and large dirt piles (used in construction and other activities) on Post.**
- **Nests can be built and an egg laid within a weekend.**
- **Bank Swallows will utilize cavities and nests from the previous breeding season.**
- **Fort Wainwright does NOT apply for NOR does it receive a permit for Bank Swallow nest depredation.**
- **Once an egg is laid, the nest and occupants are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and may not be removed without a permit.**
- **Empty nests can be removed and or filled without a permit.**
- **Nests may be active while still being constructed. Check first and verify that the nest is EMPTY. If verification cannot be obtained, Do not remove the nest.**
- **Preventative measures and a proactive approach are the most efficient and simple ways to deal with the nesting birds.**
- **Prevent nesting between first arrival to July 15th.**
- **Nests and the dirt piles they are located in may not be removed until all signs of occupancy are gone.**

Proactive Measures

- **Monitor any and all areas that will be of importance between first arrival – July 15 for nest constructions.**
- **Remove EMPTY nest constructions. If in doubt of occupancy, leave nest and call the Environmental Division, Natural Resource Department Immediately for assistance.**
- **Consider obtaining materials to prevent nesting if monitoring is lacking.**
- **Cover dirt piles that will be of importance if they will be inactive for periods longer than 36 hours - Bank Swallows**
- **Continue monitoring and proactive measures until July 15.**

Materials for Nest Prevention

Bird Net 2000. Bird-B-Gone, Inc.

No-Knot Net. Bird-B-Gone, Inc.

Bird-B-Gone Inc. 1-800-392-6915

www.birdbgone.com

Resources

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END

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND

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